

the hand-press, and the second on machine-printing, the success of which dates only from 1840. In the second paper, special attention is given by the author to the little-understood process of "overlying," and the relations of printer to draughtsman and engraver are suggestively discussed. These papers must prove of especial interest to practical printers.

The report of the joint committee on Dominion Parliamentary and Departmental printing, made and adopted by the House, cancelled the MacLean, Roger & Co. contracts. New tenders will be called for. There was a strong party in the committee who favored giving the contract to Mr. Boyle, proprietor of the *Irish Canadian*, as the lowest *bona fide* tenderer. Mr. Mackintosh, who was to receive \$25,000 a year for the five years the contract was to run, has received one year's payment. MacLean, Roger & Co., will be heavy losers if not again the successful tenderers.

We have heard of a certain business manager of a daily paper in Halifax who, on the occasion of a disputed point arising in an argument between himself and an advertiser, offered to bet a cool \$500 and put up the money. The said B. M. suited the action to the word, and put his hand in his pocket for the money, but the advertiser got scared at the prospect of seeing so much money at one time and decamped. We hope we will be pardoned the remark—we mean nothing derogatory to newspaper proprietors—that there are not many persons, outside of B. M.'s, on daily newspapers who could back up their arguments at a moment's notice with such a handsome sum as \$500.

Never, in the history of the printing trade, has business been so dull as this winter in Quebec. . . . Nearly all the first-class printers are leaving for the United States, where business is brisk and wages high. During the past few weeks, several printers who were in our office drawing \$8 per week, throughout the year, have removed to the West, where they are securing \$12 per week. We see no harm in our printers bettering their position; while provisions, dry goods, rentals and taxes are advancing in this city, there seems to be no chance on the part of newspaper proprietors to increase wages as in other cities, for the simple reason that there is no work to keep them employed.—*Quebec Budget*, 21st March.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

Ottawa-graphs.

OTTAWA, March 1.

The session would have made things brighter here, but the Clerk of the Weather said, "No, they shall be dull;" and so we have had wind, and rain, and sloppy, vacant streets, till now, more frost has come, and to-day is almost beautiful.

Business, in the printing line, is "rushing;" this is the time when the careful compositor gathers in his harvest here. And yet he finds there is less to do than he at first confidently expected there would be; what with the piling down of expenses by large contractors, who have to leave a margin for the buying out of "lower tenders," and the Printing Committee of the Commons proposing to "boil down" the reports of the debates, it looks to the printer as though he were in danger of being crowded out.

Out of what?—well, out of the place where fall the droppings of Government patronage and Parliamentary favors, so nicely disclosed in the Canadian "Pinafore," "H. M. S. Parliament"—which parody, with its keen satire on the whole institution of Government in the Dominion, holds more of interest to the politician than ever its original could have awakened.

The session, too, has drawn to the capital many of the aspiring youth from the surrounding country, who aim at rising to something higher by that ennobling labor of the stick and rule; but, in the little dialogue below will be found the opinion which your city print holds of a number of these:

*City Print. (imperiously).*—Where did you learn your trade?

*Young Aspirant.*—In A—, sir.

*C. P.*—Was there a printing office there?

*Young As(s).*—Yes.

*C. P. (sternly).*—Wasn't it a blacksmith shop? Then the

"Dark lightning flashed from Roderick's eye,"

and suddenly wrought his face with

Wrathful indignation

At the base instruction;

but he remembers he is in the "city," wherein to resort to brute force bringeth many and huge disgraces; he is filled probably with that spirit of which Sir Walter Scott wrote—

"It burns, it maddens, it constrains,"

for he remains silent, and respects himself; and if he continues so, and becomes a thorough re-